

## India as a Linguistic Civilisation - A Lecture in 3 Parts



'India as a Linguistic Civilisation - A Lecture in 3 Parts' was organised by the Department of Communication Studies in collaboration with NCBS (National Centre of Biological Sciences). The lecture series was held on the 13th, 14th and 15th of July, 2023 from 4 p.m to 6 p.m in GJB Auditorium 2. Participants included students of the Department of Communication Studies, students from other departments and a number of guests invited by NCBS.

GN Devy, the Obaid Siddiqi chair at the NCBS archives, is a prominent literary critic and former professor. He has written and edited close to 90 books in areas such as literary criticism, anthropology, education, linguistics and philosophy. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014 for his work with denotified and nomadic tribes and endangered

languages. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1993 for his book, 'After Amnesia'.

The topics of the three days of lectures were 'Heritage', 'Diversity' and 'Future', respectively.

On Day 1, Professor Devy discussed the origin of language, the defining aspects of languages in different civilisations and contrasted them with the Indian civilisation.

On Day 2, he spoke about the diversity of Indian languages, tracing the history of this diversity from ancient times to the framing of the constitution. He also spoke about the relationship between Nationalism and its impact on the diversity of languages in a country.

Day 3 saw Mr. Devy discuss the precarious future of linguistic diversity in India, the threats posed by overly relying on artificial memory (technology) and the ways in which we can preserve the linguistic diversity of India – keeping them in circulation and not encasing them in museums.